

**All healthcare facilities should follow the infection control guidance in the section  
Basic Infection Control Principles for Preventing the Spread of Pandemic Influenza  
in Healthcare Settings**

**The following guidance is intended to address setting-specific infection control issues that should also be considered.**

**Home healthcare services**

Home healthcare includes health and rehabilitative services performed in the home by providers including home health agencies, hospices, durable medical equipment providers, home infusion therapy services, and personal care and support services staff. The scope of services ranges from assistance with activities of daily living and physical and occupational therapy to wound care, infusion therapy, and chronic ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD). Communication between home healthcare providers and patients or their family members is essential for ensuring that these personnel are appropriately protected. When pandemic influenza is in the community, home health agencies should consider contacting patients before the home visit to determine whether persons in the household have an influenza-like illness.

- If patients with pandemic influenza are in the home, consider:
  - Postponing nonessential services
  - Assigning providers who are not at increased risk for complications of pandemic influenza to care for these patients
- Home healthcare providers who enter homes where there is a person with an influenza-like illness should follow the recommendations for standard and droplet precautions described above. Professional judgment should be used in determining whether to don a surgical or procedure mask upon entry into the home or only for patient interactions. Factors to consider include the possibility that others in the household may be infectious and the extent to which the patient is ambulating within the home.